

Church of St. Ignatius Loyola

ESTABLISHED IN 1851 • JESUIT SINCE 1866

December 22, 2019 | Fourth Sunday of Advent

Why the World Needs Christmas

As I sit at my computer to write this Christmas essay, I recognize the choice before me: to cast our gaze simply at a moment in time when shepherds and kings gathered around a manger in the town of Bethlehem; or to invite us to reflect upon the significance of that historical event and its relevance for us today. To do the former would undoubtedly rekindle cherished memories of Christmases past and entice us to reminisce of better times, if such times ever truly existed. The temptation is to romanticize that night in Bethlehem and the story of the birth of Jesus for their sentimental value. It then becomes nothing more than a quaint story.

The story of Christmas is richly textured with flashes of brilliance within the darkness of a world living in the shadow of fear and despair. Mired in the abyss of cruelty and self-pity, confounded by motives other than self-interest, and driven by false notions of greatness and power, the world at the time of the birth of Jesus was on a path to self-destruction. It was into just such a messy world that in the mystery of God's love Jesus Christ was born. The divine took on human form so that the world might be saved, be given a message of hope, an invitation to peace, and be restored to its innocence. What had been foretold by Isaiah had come to pass, *The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; upon those who lived in a land of gloom a light has shone.* Isaiah 9:1.

What then of our reality? What relevance does an event of more than two thousand years ago have for us who live in an enlightened age of science and reason? Have we not heeded the trumpets of glad tidings by the advancements we have achieved through hard work and common sense? Have we not journeyed, unafraid, into vistas of manufactured bright lights?

And so, let us look at our reality. We live in a world where hunger and starvation persist; where substance abuse has claimed the lives of far too many; where women, men and children are huddled in fear of being unlawfully detained or bartered as slaves; where professing one's religion targets one for violence. Our planet gasps for clean air; our oceans lack the oxygen to sustain species of fish. Our forests are needlessly burned either deliberately or because of climate change. We experience the diminishment of the Catholic Church throughout the world; the unraveling of democracy and democratic principles, even in our own country. We witness the absence of moral principle among those who would govern us. We tolerate the language of hate that dehumanizes those who are different from us and allow them to be referred to as human waste, along with their countries of origin.

It is tragic when Black Friday takes on more meaning and urgency than Christmas Day, when there are more shoppers in stores than people attending religious services. Perhaps we have lost sight of the fact that Jesus Christ came to proclaim the Kingdom of God, not the next 48 or 72 hour special when you shop online. The culture we have helped to create has gone well beyond crass commercialism, putting our very souls at risk for the unquenchable thirst of having more and more.

To fail to acknowledge the darkness of today's world calls into question our understanding of the meaning and relevance of Christmas. The story of Christmas, indeed all of Scripture, can only be understood in the contexts of our lives and our times. The truth underlying what we believe is that God loves us and would never abandon us to the powers of doom, that the light of Jesus Christ overcomes all darkness. The birth of the Son of God into our messy world, two thousand years ago and today, proclaims this reality for all ages to all people of good will.

Like the shepherds and kings who gathered around the manger that first Christmas night, we yearn for a world where darkness will be shattered by the light of truth, despair forever vanquished by hope, fear conquered by freedom, and the politics and rhetoric of hate supplanted by morality and justice. The Christmas story reminds us that the promise of such a world is within our grasp if we place our trust in God and embrace our calling as disciples of his Son—to witness to and proclaim God's Kingdom on earth. The world today needs a message of hope. The world needs Christmas.

— Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.
Pastor



THIS WEEK AT A GLANCE

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24th

&

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25th

To view our complete Christmas Mass schedule,
see below.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26th

The Parish House will be closed
in observance of the Christmas Holiday.

One Daily Mass will be celebrated
at 8:30 AM.

Merry Christmas!



*Fr. Dennis Yesalonia, S.J.,
and the Parish Staff
of the
Church of
St. Ignatius Loyola
extend best wishes
for a
blessed Christmas.*

2019 CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

Christmas Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00 PM FAMILY MASS I

Wallace Hall Choir & Children's Choirs

Fr. Judge, Presider

Doors open at 3:15 PM

6:00 PM FAMILY MASS II

Parish Community Choir

Fr. Hilbert, Presider

Doors open at 5:15 PM

8:00 PM VIGIL MASS

Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola

Fr. Bergen, Presider

Doors open at 7:30 PM

MIDNIGHT MASS

Choir & Orchestra of St. Ignatius Loyola

Fr. Yesalonia, Presider

Doors open at 10:45 PM

Christmas Day

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

9:30 AM MASS

Fr. O'Connell, Presider

11:00 AM SOLEMN MASS

Fr. Yesalonia, Presider

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 26TH

One Mass will be celebrated at 8:30 AM

(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year's Eve

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31ST

Mass at 8:30 AM in the Lady Chapel &
the Vigil Mass of Solemnity at 5:30 PM
in the Church

(The Parish House will be closed)

New Year's Day

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 1ST

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

One Mass will be celebrated at 10:30 AM
in the Church

(The Parish House will be closed)

A Gentle Reminder

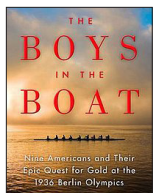
The Christmas Masses here in the Parish
are unusually crowded, especially the
4:00 PM Family Mass and the Midnight Mass.

People will be seated as they arrive.
In fairness to all, please do not attempt to
save or hold seats for those who are expected
later. The ushers have been instructed
not to honor such arrangements.

MORE THAN A BOOK CLUB

JANUARY SELECTION BOOK DISCUSSION

Thursday, January 16th at 2:00 PM
Parish Lounge



OCTOBER BOOK SELECTION

The Boys in the Boat
by Daniel James Brown

Cast aside by his family at an early age, abandoned and left to fend for himself in the woods of Washington State, young Joe Rantz turns to rowing as a way of escaping his past.

What follows is an extraordinary journey, as Joe and eight other working-class boys exchange the sweat and dust of life in 1930s America for the promise of glory at the heart of Hitler's Berlin. Stroke by stroke, a remarkable young man strives to regain his shattered self-regard, to dare again to trust in others —and to find his way back home.

Told against the backdrop of the Great Depression, Daniel James Brown's *The Boys in the Boat* is narrative non-fiction of the first order; a personal story full of lyricism and unexpected beauty that rises above the grand sweep of history, and captures instead the purest essence of what it means to be alive.

To register for the book discussion,
email MoreThanaBookClubSIL@gmail.com

Registration required.

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

THANK YOU!



Over \$210,000 in donations was raised during our recent matching gift challenge for our capital campaign, *Your Parish, Your Home*.

This sum will be matched by three anonymous donors and bring us closer to our goal.

A big thank you to all of you who participated.

Moving? Please don't forget to notify us!

GIVING

2020
19

**Making year-end gifts?
Please remember your Parish!**

An IRA charitable rollover is a win-win. If you are 70 1/2 or older and have an IRA, you can make a tax-free, direct, charitable contribution to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola from that IRA. You can transfer up to \$100,000 without having to pay income taxes on that money. This gift can satisfy all or part of your required minimum distribution.

Please contact your IRA administrator or Erin Pick at 212-288-3588 ext. 608 for more information.

RETREATS



Two parish retreats will take place at Jogues Retreat Center, Cornwall-on-Hudson, NY (north of West Point). The retreats will begin with dinner on Friday, and end with lunch on Sunday.

"Retreat for People Who Don't Pray (Much)"

March 6-8, 2020

Facilitator: Fr. Michael Hilbert, S.J.

Maximum 10 persons

To register, email march2020silretreat@gmail.com

"Choose Life, That You May Live" (Dt. 30:19)

April 24-26, 2020

Sponsors: LGBT Catholics and Friends

Maximum 20 persons

To register, email april2020silretreat@gmail.com

Cost per person: \$150

MOMS, POPS & TOTS

**Tuesday, January 7th
10:00 AM**

Gonzaga Meeting Room



This weekly gathering provides parents with young children the opportunity to make friends and develop community while strengthening their own spiritual lives. Coffee and treats are available for the parents.

**For more information,
email Nicole O'Reilly at n_fusaro@yahoo.com**

ANNUAL APPEAL



Please support this year's Annual Appeal.

A copy of the Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2019 is available online at stignatiusloyola.org or by scanning the QR Code at right.



Thank you for your generosity!



Calling All Snowbirds!

Are you in Florida during the winter months? Then we invite you to join us for events we will be hosting in Palm Beach & Naples in early March.

For more information, contact Erin Pick at picke@saintignatiusloyola.org or (212) 288-3588 x608.



IGNATIAN VOLUNTEER CORPS *Experience Making a Difference*

Join the Ignatian Volunteer Corps (IVC) and become a contemplative in action in the spirit of St. Ignatius Loyola and the Jesuits!

IVC volunteers are adults over 50 years of age who offer their life skills and experience one to two days a week to directly serve those in need. Volunteers gather monthly to prayerfully reflect on their service and to deepen their spirituality in the Ignatian tradition. There is also the opportunity for spiritual guidance.

Interested? Contact Maureen Fullam, Regional Director, at 917-859-0928 or email mfullam@ivcusa.org and visit our website at ivcusa.org



Special Collection

This weekend, we will take the collection for our parish Christmas Flowers Fund.

We thank you for your generosity.



Follow us on Facebook at [stignatiusnyc](https://www.facebook.com/stignatiusnyc)

Announced Masses and Readings for the Week

Monday, December 23rd

(Fourth Monday of Advent)

Malachi 3:1-4, 23-24 Psalm 25 Luke 1:57-66

8:30 MEM Nancy Tully

12:10 MEM Sose & Mark Prekelezaj

5:30 MEM Peter J. Burke

Tuesday, December 24th

(Fourth Tuesday of Advent)

2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16 Psalm 89 Luke 1:67-79

8:30 MEM Muriel Larsen & John Stack

Wednesday, December 25th

(The Nativity of the Lord)

Isaiah 9:1-6 Psalm 96

Titus 2:11-14 Luke 2:1-14

Thursday, December 26th

(St. Stephen)

Acts 6:8-10; 7:54-59 Psalm 31 Matthew 10:17-22

8:30 MEM Emil Wittek

Friday, December 27th

(St. John)

1 John 1:1-4 Psalm 97 John 20:1a, 2-8

8:30 MEM Michael Viele

12:10 MEM Danielle Tilyou

5:30 MEM William Powers

Saturday, December 28th

(The Holy Innocents)

1 John 1:5-2:2 Psalm 124 Matthew 2:13-18

8:30 MEM Toni Brown

Sunday, December 29th

(The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph)

Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14 Psalm 128

Colossians 3:12-21 Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23



PRAYER RESOURCES

Pray as You Go

www.pray-as-you-go.org

Pray as You Go is a daily prayer session designed for use on portable devices.

3-Minute Retreats

www.loyolapress.com/3-minute-retreats-daily-online-prayer.htm

Take a short prayer break right at your computer. Spend some quiet time reflecting on a Scripture passage.

LME RETREAT

An Overview of Sacred Music: From Beginnings to Today

Saturday, January 18th | 9:15 AM | Wallace Hall



Dr. Jennifer Pascual will present an overview of sacred music of the Church, including different styles and forms from the early beginnings of sacred music to the practices of today. The morning presentation will cover the early beginnings of sacred music up until Vatican II, touching on forms such as Gregorian Chant & Polyphony and briefly discussing sacred music through the major musical periods. Sacred musical works by men and women composers will be discussed and how they can be utilized in modern-day liturgies.

The afternoon presentation will cover sacred music as practiced today, church documents pertaining to sacred music, and styles and forms such as hymnody, contemporary music and ritual music.

*Continental breakfast and lunch will be served.
The day will conclude with an optional Mass.*

To register, visit tinyurl.com/lme-winter-2020.

LECTURE

Broken: My Journey from Addiction to Redemption and Beyond

**Monday, January 27th
7:00 PM in Wallace Hall**



PRESENTER

William C. Moyers

*Vice President, Public Affairs &
Community Relations,
Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation*

William C. Moyers uses his own personal story to emphasize the power of addiction and the promise and possibility of recovery from this chronic illness that does not discriminate.

A public advocate for the Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation, Moyers has carried this message to audiences across the country and around the world for the past 25 years. Along the way the evolution of his journey of faith has become integral to the story he shares with us.

MUSIC

 **Concerts at
St. Ignatius**

Park Avenue

Yale Schola Cantorum

Saturday, January 25th at 2:00 PM

The astonishing Yale Schola Cantorum returns to the Church of St. Ignatius Loyola with a program to celebrate Epiphany.

Admission is free. No tickets needed.

Italy “Unplugged”

Tuesday, February 25th at 8:00 PM

FEATURING

Choir of St. Ignatius Loyola | K. Scott Warren, conductor

Italian music excels at the grand and the intimate alike. Amidst a rich tapestry of musical styles and textures, we find the maestri Rossini and Verdi, masters of opera and other large forms, returning to the unaccompanied choir. Anchored by one of the great masses of Palestrina, the first half of this concert explores a seldom-encountered side of Rossini and Verdi with two sumptuous motets by each composer. We complete the evening with Ildebrando Pizetti's luminous *Requiem*, composed in the early 1920's.

Cocktail Benefit: My Prayer is a Song

**Wednesday, March 11th at 7:00 PM
Wallace Hall**

FEATURING

Bruce Rameker, vocalist | Michael Sheetz, piano

St. Augustine said, “He who sings prays twice.” Prayers are twofold in this evening of sung prayers from every time and place, ranging from chant to spirituals to songs of the living composers here at St. Ignatius, from Schubert's *Ave Maria* to unlikely selections by Marc Blitzstein and Meredith Monk. Longtime parishioner and cantor Bruce Rameker uses both baritone and countertenor ranges and picks from a lifetime's collection of prayer-songs, demonstrating that there's more than one way to pray.

100% of your ticket cost goes directly to The Ali Forney Center in Harlem, the largest LGBT community center helping LGBT homeless youth in the United States.

Tickets are available online at ignatius.nyc.



CHURCH OF ST. IGNATIUS LOYOLA

980 Park Avenue at 84th Street • New York, New York 10028 • (212) 288-3588

FAX: (212) 734-3671 STIGNATIUSLOYOLA.ORG

PARISH STAFF

Pastor

Rev. Dennis J. Yesalonia, S.J.

Associate Pastor

Rev. Michael P. Hilbert, S.J.

Senior Priests

Rev. William J. Bergen, S.J.

Rev. Damian A. O'Connell, S.J.

Pastoral Associates

Nicole Bedard

Brian Pinter

Jean Santopatre

Pastoral Assistant

Maureen Haley

Assisting Priests

Rev. Ronald Amiot, S.J. Rev. Philip G. Judge, S.J.

Rev. James Martin, S.J.

Music Ministries

Daniel Beckwith Maureen Haley

Robert Reuter Philip Anderson

Michael Sheetz

Scott Warren, *Director*

Sara Murphy, *Executive Director | SMSS Concerts*

Danya Katok, *Administrator*

Assistant to the Pastor

Diane M. Boyle

Administrative Assistant

Patricia Schneider

Communications Coordinator

Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Director of Facilities

Robert Cisternino

Asst. to the Director of Facilities

Caroline Fernandes

Director of Development

Erin Pick

Treasurer

Fernando Castro

Weekday Masses (Monday to Friday)

8:30 AM, 12:10 PM, and 5:30 PM

Saturday: 8:30 AM

Saturday Vigil 5:30 PM Fr. Bergen

Sunday: 8:00 AM Fr. Amiot

9:30 AM Fr. Yesalonia

Wallace Hall Family 11:00 AM Fr. Hilbert

Solemn 11:00 AM Fr. O'Connell

7:30 PM Fr. O'Connell

Religious Education for Children

Ms. Nicole Bedard, M.A.

Director

(212) 861-4764

St. Ignatius Loyola Grammar School

Ms. Mary Larkin,

M.S. Ed. (Admin.), M.S. Ed. (Literacy)

Principal

48 East 84th Street

New York, NY 10028

(212) 861-3820 Fax: (212) 879-8248

St. Ignatius Loyola Preschool

Ms. Mary Larkin,

Interim Director

240 East 84th Street

New York, NY 10028

(212) 734-6427 Fax: (212) 734-6972

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sundays at 9:30 AM.

Centering Prayer

Mondays at 6:30 PM.

Confessions

4:30 PM Saturday or by appointment.

Baptisms

Please call Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636)

to arrange for a Baptism and

the preparation given prior to Baptism.

Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults

Contact Maureen Fullam, M.A.,

Director, at the Parish House.

Marriages

The Bride or Groom should call Maureen Haley at the Parish House (212-288-3588 x636) to begin

preparation for Marriage, normally one year in advance.

Visits to the Sick

Please contact the Parish House between the hours of 9:00 AM and 9:00 PM.

Parish Mission Statement

The love of Christ impels us to welcome all, to worship joyfully and pray fervently, to walk together with those in need, and to reverence God in the wonder of Creation.

Men's Weekend Retreat. Thursday, January 23rd – Sunday, January 26th. *Loyola Jesuit Center, Morristown, NJ.* Fr. George Collins, S.J. will offer reflections on the theme *Embracing Who You Are*. The weekend includes preached talks on the theme, daily Mass, optional private consultations with retreat leaders, Reconciliation, a Healing Mass, outdoor stations of the cross, the saying of the Rosary and free time for personal prayer and reflection. Cost: Free will offering. Retreatants should arrive on Thursday any time after 3 PM, with the retreat concluding on Sunday at 1:00 PM. For more information and to register, contact Peter Riordan at 347-525-4429 or Carlos Cuartas at 917-509-5329.

Ignatian Yoga Retreat. Friday, March 20th to Sunday, March 22nd, 2020. *Mariandale Retreat Center, Ossining, New York.* Join Bobby Karle, S.J. and the Ignatian Yoga Team for the only East Coast retreat this Spring. To register, visit ignatianyoga.com.

Sunday Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Every Sunday from 3:15 PM to 5:30 PM. *Saint Joseph's Church, 404 East 87th Street.* An opportunity for quiet prayer and silent adoration. All are welcome.

Music Information: (212) 288-2520 | Email: music@stignatiusloyola.org